HS.74/1642 (67)

By the Queene.

A Proclamation for reforming of the deceipts in diminiſhing the value of the coines of Golde currant within the Queenes Maieſties dominions, and for remedying the loſſes that might growe by receiuing thereof being diminiſhed.

FOrasmuch as a great part of our moneyes of Gold of our Realme of England, and ſuch gold of forraine countreys, which now are currant within our ſaid Realme, are by the ſiniſter and vnlawful dealings of wicked perſons, not only caried out of our Realme to forraine countreys, and there by diuers meanes diminiſhed of their value, and from thence returned hither, and paied in lieu of lefull coyne for the commodities of our countreyes, and ſome other of them embaſed by clipping, ſowthering, and other vnlawfull practiſes of their due fynes, ſo that both the one ſort and the other (by the meanes aforeſayde) are brought much inferiour to their firſt true value and goodneſſe: And beſide that, many falſe peeces be counterfeited in forraine partes of the ſaide coynes, whereby great and intollerable loſſe and diminution of the riches of our Realme doeth dayly grow and encreaſe. Wherefore, wee minding (as neceſſitie requireth) the ſpeedie remedie of the premiſſes, doe ſtraightly forbid, charge and commaund, that no maner of perſon or perſons within this our Realme of England, from and after the proclamation hereof, in any Countie of our realme, do take or receyue, or deliuer in payment, any falſe counterfeit peeces of any coyne of gold currant within our ſaide Realme, or any peece of the ſame coyne being ſowthered, or otherwiſe vnlawfully embaſed, or lacking of the iuſt weight thereof, ouer the remedies and abatements hereafter ſeuerally expreſſed, and to be allowed in that behalfe. And if any ſuch peece of coine, lacking of his true weight aboue the remedie and abatements hereafter expreſſed, then, if ſuch counterfeite peeces, as is aforeſayde, or any peece of coyne of golde ſowthered or vnlawfully embaſed, ſhall be offered in payment: We will, that it ſhall be lawfull to all and euery perſon and perſons, to whom ſuch offer of payment ſhall be made, not onely to refuſe to take the ſame in payment, but alſo to ſtrike a hole at his pleaſure in euery of the ſayde peeces ſo offered in payment, which ſhall be ſowthered or vnlawfully embaſed, or which ſhall lacke of his iuſt weight aboue the remedies here after following, and to cut euery of the ſayde counterfeites into peeces, rendring thoſe ſo ſtricken through, and the peeces of the other ſo cut in ſunder, then preſently afterwards to the owners thereof againe. And if any controuerſie ſhal happen to ariſe betwixt the parties, or any of their friends or fauourers then preſent, in or about ſuch ſtriking through, or cutting in peeces of any of the premiſſes: That then forthwith hee that ſhall offer any of the ſaide vnlefull and forbidden moneyes in payment, and he that ſhall receyue the ſame, ſhall peaceably repayre together to our next Juſtice of peace, Mayor, Bailiffe, or other chiefe officer of that place, who then without delay, taking one other aſſiſtant of knowledge vnto him, ſhall iudge of the moneys in controuerſie, and ſhall allow of thoſe that are allowable for currant by theſe preſents, and of the contrarie ſhall preſently execute that which is here aboue appointed.

And becauſe all our louing ſubiectes in al partes of this our Realme, may haue good and iuſt ballances and weights, for the true weighing of all the ſaide coynes of golde, and true and vpright graines and halfe graines for the remedies and abatements aforeſaide: We haue commaunded the Warden of our mynt within our Tower of London nowe being, (whoſe office it is) to prepare and make readie a ſufficient number of vpright ballances and true weightes, as well of

euery seuerall peece of golde lawfully current in our said Realme of England, as of the saide remedies and abatements, to be stricken with an E. crowned, to be readie to deliuer at reasonable prices, to be rated by our Treasorer of England, to all such our subiectes as shall haue neede of the same. And our will and pleasure is, that the chiefe officers in al our Cities, Boroughes and Townes corporate of this our Realme of England, and our Principalitie of Wales, shall before the thirtie day of Nouember nert comming, prouide to haue one payre of the said ballances and weightes sufficient, at the hands of our saide warden, marked as aforesaid, within euery such Citie, Borough and towne corporate, well and safely to be kept for equall iudgement betwixt our subiectes and all others, as any occasion shalbe. And we streightly prohibite and forbidde by these presents, to all our subiectes and others whatsoeuer within this our Realme of England or Principalitie of Wales, to haue or vse any other weightes, of or for the said coynes of golde and remedies thereof, then onely such as shall be made, and sised by our saide Warden, or his deputie or deputies, or such other as shall succeede in his saide office, the price thereof to be reasonably rated by our Treasorer of England, vpon paine to suffer for euery such offence, sixe monethes imprisonment, without bayle or mainepryze. And by these presentes, we giue full power, authoritie, and expresse commaundement to all and singular our Justices, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Justices of peace, Stewards in Courts and Leetes, Constables, Headboroughes, and other our chiefe Officers, and ministers of Justice whatsoeuer, that they diligently attend to the execution of this our present Proclamation, and to the seuerall punishment of all the offenders to the contrarie, as they tender our good pleasure, and the wealth and benefite of vs, and our whole Realme. Giuen at our Manor of Richmond, the twelfth of October, in the nine and twentieth yeere of our reigne.

Hereafter followe the abatements, that may be suffered in the weight of euery piece of golde following.

In euery piece of golde current for	xxx. s. / xx. s. / xv. s. / x. s. / v. s. / ij. s. vj. d.	The remedie and abatement shall not exceede	iiij. gr. di. / iij. gr. / ij. gr. di. / ij. gr. / j. gr. / di. gr.	And in euerie French or Flemish crowne current in this realme for	vj. s.

The remedy not aboue ij. graines.

God saue the Queene.

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